

VZCZCXRO6821  
OO RUEHBC RUEHDA RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK  
DE RUEHGB #0437/01 0501413  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 191413Z FEB 09  
FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1790  
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 000437

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR S/ES-CR, S/ES-O, AND NEA  
NSC FOR LTG LUTE AND NSC/IRAQ

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: I2 OPDC OVIP PREL  
SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA FROM ACTING PARLIAMENT  
SPEAKER SHEIKH KHALED ATTIEH

Begin Text of Embassy translation:

Republic of Iraq  
Council of Representatives of Iraq  
Office of the First Deputy

2 February 2009

Your Excellency Barack Obama,  
President of the United States of America

I would like to present Your Excellency my warmest  
congratulations on the occasion of your  
taking office as President of the United States of America  
and my best wishes to you and  
our friends in the United States for continued progress and  
prosperity.

A nation that remains faithful to the values and principles  
of justice and equality will  
be able to effectively contribute in advancing human  
civilization and shine as a beacon  
for other nations and will help the entire world overcome the  
hurdles of the past and move  
forward to a brighter future.

Mr. President: your assuming office comes at a time when  
political, economic and social  
challenges facing humanity take on a universal character,  
which makes it incumbent on all  
nations to cooperate and stand together in facing the  
challenges and providing a secure  
future for our future generations and build a lasting peace.

Both Americans and the Iraqis have faced many common  
challenges over the past five years.  
Together and through the sacrifices of our men and women we  
have overcome the dangers that  
threatened the heart of our nascent democracy. However, the  
current realities in Iraq have  
changed for the better and we are more hopeful than ever that  
our children will enjoy a brighter  
future. This will require changing the requirements for the  
realities on the ground and rearranging  
the priorities of the decision makers and those who are in  
charge of advancing the current conditions  
in Iraq. Today, we are mindful of the need for development  
and providing better opportunities for a  
free and decent life for the have-nots in all fields in  
parallel with-if not ahead of-our security  
and military requirements. Security is synonymous to  
development and without development one cannot  
speak of security.

The quick succession of events that followed the toppling of  
Saddam's dictatorial regime and the

mistakes that were made provided an impetus to adopt a different strategy. We believe that the same Iraqi arena on which the blood of victims was shed is the same one that will bear our best features of change. Hopefully, this will provide a precious opportunity for the United States as a nation to rejuvenate the great principles on which it was established through its continued contribution in building a just and democratic society in Iraq.

Our great ambition and hope for Iraq is to have a strong alliance and partnership with the free world and for the sons and daughters of the Iraqi people to see the importance and usefulness of such alliance for the restoration of their sense of openness and the intellectual exchange of ideas with the free world, of which they had been deprived by former tyrannical regimes. It is for these reasons that people in their homes and the poor in their villages must share the fruits of the new democratic state of affairs in Iraq. I am confident that that will go a long way toward uprooting the remnants of the seeds of terrorist ideologies that seeped into our society in the recent past.

Our democratic experiment will not succeed and take root unless the social, economic and cultural aspects of life go hand in hand. This will call for continued efforts of all friends and courageous nations with which we share common human values and legitimate interests in supporting our Iraqi people to complete their national project, particularly

BAGHDAD 00000437 002 OF 002

considering the fact that they have opted for partnership rather than conflict and have committed themselves to build their homeland and preserve their security and prevent the enemies of peace and democracy from interfering in their own affairs. Today, the future of Iraq is being made by its sons and daughters. Our people that hold its history sacred will never forget their friends and those that helped us complete the march toward the realization of freedom, prosperity and welfare.

Please accept my best wishes for your continued success,

Sheikh Khaled Attieh  
Acting Speaker, the Council of Representatives

End Text.  
BUTENIS